

The Battle-Cry

By CHARLES NIVILLE BUCK

Illustrations by C. B. Rhodes

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He went in and then suddenly halted and stood near the threshold in amazement. His eyes began to dance and she gave a little gasp of delight. There against the wall stood her place.

She turned to find Anne Harvey waiting in the door as awkwardly as a green boy. Just how it felt a task it had been to bring that great weight across those roads unharmed she could only guess. He must, in effect, have built the roads before him as Napoleon built them for his armies.

She turned to him, deeply moved, and after the first flush of delight her eyes were misty.

"I wonder how I am ever going to thank you—for everything," she said softly.

But Anne Harvey only answered in an embarrassed voice: "I reckon it might be a little thingy, so I had a letter come up from Lexington and take it up."

She went over and struck a chord, then she came back and laid a hand on his coat sleeve.

"The not going to try to thank you at all—now," she said. "But you go home and come back this evening and we'll have a little party, just you and I—with music."

"Goodly," he said. "I reckon you haven't noticed it—but my rifle's standing there in your rack."

It was a night of storm, with just a little moon overhead and the music of the whippoorwill in the air, when Anne presented himself again at the school. He knew that he must break off these visits because, while she had been away he had taken due account of himself and recognized that the present state of locked lips would drive him beyond control. He could no longer endure the "unlit lamp and the unlit lamp." Now the sight of her and his lips a palpitating fever and a burning madness. He would invent some excuse tonight and go away.

Then he came to the open door and stood on the threshold transfixed by the sight which greeted his eyes. He had dropped to the floor and lay there. He thought he knew Juanita. Now he suddenly realized that the real Juanita he had never seen before, and as he looked at her he felt infinitely far away from her. He was a very dim, faint star in apogee.

She sat with her back turned and her fingers straying over the keys of the piano—and she was in evening dress! The shaded lamp shone softly on ivory shoulders and a string of pearls glistened at her throat. Around her slim figure the soft folds of her gown fell like summer draperies and, to his eyes, she was utterly and flawlessly beautiful.

He had followed a whim that night and "dressed up" to surprise him. She had promised him a party and meant to receive him with as much preparation as she would have made for royalty. But to him it was only a declaration of the difference between them, emphasizing how unattainable she was; how unthinkably remote from him own rough world.

Then, as she heard his steps and rose, she was disappointed because in his face, instead of pleasure, she read only a tumult whose dominant note was distress.

"Don't you like me?" she asked, as she gave him her hand and smiled up at him.

"Like you!" he burst out, then he caught himself with something like a gasp. "Yes," he said dully, "I like you."

For a while she played and sang, and then they went out to the porch, where she sank down in the barrel-stave hammock which hung there and he sat in a split-bottom chair by her side.

He sat very moody and silent, his hands resting on his knees, trying to repress what he could not long hope to keep under.

She seemed oblivious to his deep abstraction, for she was humming some air low, almost under her breath. But at last she sat up and laughed a silvery and subdued yet happy little laugh. She stretched her arms above her head.

"It's good to be back, Anne," she said softly. "I've missed you—lots." He dared not tell her how he had missed her, and he did not recognize the new note in her voice—the heart note. There was a strange silence between them, and as they sat, so close that each could almost feel the other's breath, their eyes met and held in a locked gaze.

Slowly, as though drawn by some occult power over which he held no control, the man bent a little nearer, a little nearer. Slowly the girl's eyes dilated, and then, with no word, she suddenly gave a low exclamation, half gasp, half appeal, all inarticulate, and both hands went groping out toward him.

With something almost like a cry, the man was on his knees by the ham-

mock and both his arms were around her and her head was on his shoulder. Then he was kissing her cheeks and lips and into his soul was coming a sudden discovery with the softness and coolness of the flesh his lips touched.

It lasted only a moment, then she pushed him back gently and rose, while one bare arm went gropingly across her face, and the other hand went out to the porch post for support.

In a voice low and broken she said: "You must go!"

"No!" he exclaimed, and took a step toward her, but she retreated a little and shook her head.

"Yes, dear—please," she almost whispered, and the man bowed in acquiescence.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

BETHLEA APPOINTS COMMITTEES.

Names Members of Upper Branch to Serve During Year.

Columbia, Feb. 21.—Andrew J. Bethesda, lieutenant governor, early yesterday appointed the following senate committees to serve during 1916: Committee on penal and charitable institutions: Geo. M. Stuckey of Lee county.

Committee on State education institutions: Hugher Sinkler of Charleston.

Committee on code commissioner: R. D. Epps of Sumter.

Committee on quarters for State officers: Provided for in resolution session of 1916; J. M. Nickles of Abbeville, T. H. Kitchen of Fairfield.

Committee to investigate rural credits and make recommendation to legislature, as provided by resolution session of 1916: D. R. Williams of Lancaster, Alan Johnstone of Newberry, J. L. Sherard of Anderson.

Committee on State printing, provided for in act of 1916: Nella Christensen of Beaufort, C. D. Lee of Darlington.

OMAR TEMPLE AT BUFFALO.

Recorder Srohecker Goes to Arrange With Hotels.

News and Courier.

Recorder Henry O. Srohecker, of Omar Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Charleston, spent several hours canvassing hotels in Buffalo Monday, arranging accommodations for a large delegation of Shriners from Omar Temple, who will go to Buffalo, July 11, 12 and 13, for the Imperial Council session there, which session already gives indications of being the greatest convention gathering ever held by the Shrine or any other fraternal organization.

Mr. George K. Staples, general chairman in charge of arrangements for the convention, predicts that it will attract 300,000 persons during its three days' session. Of course, not all will be members of the Shrine, but it is estimated that half of that number will be. From distant temples large delegations are going and from the thickly populated country within a few hours' ride of Buffalo, Nobles will make the pilgrimage to the 1916 Mecca by the thousands aboard special excursion trains.

The big parade, which is the chief spectacular event of the Imperial Council programme will, according to Capt. H. I. Sackett, who is planning it, bring upward of 50,000 persons into line. Many of the visiting Patrols will carry with them to the convention for the parade wild animals native to their territory or symbolic of Shrine-dom. The Calgary, Mani, Temple will take a live buffalo. One Western temple will have a camel and another a grizzly bear. Omar has two camels. Others will have along lions, tigers or less ferocious pets.

Mr. J. Putman Stevens, Imperial Potentate, at present is on a two months' trip through Southern States working out plans for large attendance at the convention. He will visit Honolulu to persuade the Hawaiian Temple to send a strong delegation. He was entertained here recently.

PREACHER IN TROUBLE.

Accused of Violating Federal Liquor Laws.

Greenville, Feb. 23.—J. R. Gosnell of the Merrittville section, who sometimes fills the pulpits in churches of that section, and said to be a Baptist preacher, has been arrested on the charge of violating the liquor laws of the United States. He was arrested by Officers Merrick and Causey, who found him at a still. When carried before the United States commissioner Gosnell pleaded not guilty. He was kept in jail here for a short time, pending arrangement for his bond.

Gosnell has now gone back to his home. It could not be learned whether he is an ordained minister of the gospel, but officers of the United States court state that he is a preacher well known in his own community.

COUNTY S. S. CONVENTION.

To Be Held in First Baptist Church, Sumter, on March 2.

The program for the Sumter County Sunday School convention which will be held in the First Baptist Church, Sumter, on March 2, are being sent out to all of the Sabbath schools in the county. A large representation is expected at the meeting. The program follows:

10.00—Devotional Services, led by Rev. John A. Brunson.

10.15—Convention Keyword, "Religious Education for All the People," by Rev. J. W. Guy.

10.50—Report of County President and County Secretary.

11.00—The Triple Armor of the Teacher, by Mrs. S. P. Moore.

11.30—Building up the School Through the Forward Step Plan, by R. D. Webb.

12.00—Appointment of Committees.

Second Session.

3.00—Devotional Services, led by Rev. J. B. Walker.

3.15—The Church at Sunday School and the Sunday School at Church, by Rev. R. S. Truesdale.

3.45—The Religious Life of the Child, by Mrs. S. P. Moore.

4.20—Open Parliament.

4.35—Address by Rev. W. I. Herbert.

Third Session.

7.30—Devotional Services, led by Rev. J. P. Marion.

7.45—The Girl in Her Teens, by Mrs. S. P. Moore.

8.10—Address by Rev. W. I. Herbert.

8.35—Religious Education for All the People Through the Organized Sunday School Work, by R. D. Webb.

9.00—Report of Committee.

Notice.

The meeting indicated by this program is an interdenominational meeting and every worker in every white Sunday school in Sumter county is urgently requested to attend.

Entertainment provided for regular delegates.

The Sumter County Sunday School Association is auxiliary to the South Carolina Sunday School Association, which is a co-operative effort on the part of all denominations to improve Sunday school conditions and Sunday school workers. It advocates the latest and best methods of Sunday school work and stands only for those interests that are common to Sunday schools of all denominations. The plans and methods suggested by this association are practicable for all Sunday schools, as they do not touch on church doctrines. The work is by way of suggestion, not by authority; therefore, it helps many, it hinders none. The object is helpful and brotherly co-operation, not organic union. The officers of the association are leading Christian business men of all evangelical denominations.

TO EXTEND TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Southern Railway Constructs New Lines to Have Better Service.

Washington, Feb. 23.—In order that it may extend the use of the telephone for dispatching trains over the entire line from Alexandria, Va., to Salisbury, N. C., 330 miles, Southern Railway has authorized the construction of 2 telephone circuits between Alexandria and Monroe, Va., 160 miles. The construction work will furnish employment to a number of men and will be under the direction of W. H. Potter, Superintendent of Telegraph, who will organize gangs to put up the wire and install the station equipment. Work will be begun as soon as forces can be organized and the necessary material secured. Between Monroe and Salisbury the Southern has used the telephone for dispatching trains for a number of years and the results have been so satisfactory as to justify an extension of this system.

The telephone has several advantages over the telegraph. Service is quicker and it is easier to guard against errors. The dispatcher wires the order as he sends it, spelling out all figures such as train numbers, engine numbers, and time. The receiver writes the message as he receives it and then repeats it to the dispatcher, spelling out all figures. The telephone brings the sender and receiver into close touch and the dispatcher, should occasion arise, can talk personally to the conductor or engineer of any train on his division.

The line between Alexandria and Salisbury is a very important part of the Washington-Atlanta line and Southern Railway has provided every facility for moving a heavy business over it safely and expeditiously. Double track is now being constructed and automatic electric block signals installed on all parts of it not already so equipped. The addition of the telephone dispatching system will make this one of the most modernly equipped railway lines in the world.

FIRE AT WILLIAMSTON.

Block Destroyed by Flames—No Adequate Defense.

Williamston, Feb. 23.—Fire beginning at 9:30 o'clock and continuing until 1:30 a. m. destroyed the Hudgens block, resulting in a loss of \$15,000. The Empire Mercantile company, C. C. Hindman Dry Goods company, the postoffice and the Buford-Griffin drug store were destroyed.

W. W. Griffin fell from a ladder while fighting the flames and suffered a broken arm.

The fire was under control at 1:30 o'clock. The origin is unknown.

Fire was discovered in the grocery store of the Empire Mercantile company, owned by Hudgens & Ragsdale of Pelzer. It spread quickly to the other buildings, as no adequate defense was at hand to arrest the progress of the flames. The town has no waterworks and the fire gained such rapid headway as to render the efforts of the bucket brigade ineffective. A heavy rain saved other buildings in jeopardy.

The fire is supposed to have started on the floor above the Empire company and Hindman's store, which was occupied by offices of Dr. Webb, a physician; Dr. Park, a dentist, and the rooms of the Masons and Knights of Pythias.

The contents of the stores and offices is a total loss. There is no insurance on the building, although the contents is said to have been partially covered.

This morning at 4 o'clock fire was discovered at the plant of the Carolina Stone company in the blacksmith shop and compressor room, which was a total loss. The loss of \$1,500 is fully covered by insurance.

POSSUMS "SWAMP" NEGRO MAN.

Kinston, N. C., Feb. 20.—Jamie Lawson, a Chinquapin colored man, last week took no less than 34 opossum in the woods near his home. Lawson kept the animals alive, intending to take them to market in one of the neighboring towns when he had built a coop on his cart. Meantime, he kept them in the loft of his one story home. Friday night Lawson left the trapdoor to the loft open, securely fastened the doors to his house, and retired with his wife and child. He went to sleep almost immediately, presumably, for the proceedings were well under way when he was awakened.

The Lawsons have two rooms, without all modern conveniences. As the result of this negligence there were "possums on the dresser, on and under the bed, in every corner, in the oven of the cooking stove, and two or three stragglers grimacing at him from the opening in the ceiling. It was quite the most extraordinary situation James, Mrs. James and the pickaninny ever found themselves in. The low-trimmed lamp had attracted half a dozen of the creatures, several were creeping over the faces and feet of the three in bed, as many as could find a place on the table in the kitchen were making a great clatter with the remains of the family's supper, the housecat was in a bad way, exhibiting her tall almost as furless as any of the opossums and from the fireplace, where they had found a little more than comfort, were emerging two or three smut-faced, dusty animals. It is the nature of the opossum to get along with considerable more ease in trees, etc., than on the ground, and the mantelpiece held its full share. The prehensile appendages of a number were curled over pictures adorning the wall. Lawson was dumbfounded for a time, but finally determining upon action, got out of bed and seized the firestick.

He had the misfortune to step on one of the marsupial merry-makers. That one was very much alive, but all the rest of the piratical company immediately feigned death. Lawson killed all the animals with the exception of five which he managed to take alive, and was almost an hour in the slaughtering. Those not done for at one blow immediately ceased "playing possum" and made for cover in the two rooms. Jamie Lawson has to restock his establishment with crockery, means of illumination and pictures of Bible scenes. However, on Saturday there was the biggest "possum barbecue" ever known in the section. It took place in the afternoon, when most of the plantation workers in the neighborhood had their customary half holiday.

About Time.

Chicago Journal.

One evening the young minister who had seemed rather attracted by "Big Sister" Grace, was dining with the family. Little Sister was talking rapidly when the visitor was about to ask the blessing. Turning to the child, he said, in a tone of mild reproof:

"Laura, I am going to ask grace."

"Well it's about time," answered Little Sister in an equally reproving tone. "We've been expecting you to do it for a year, and she has too."

ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL MEET.

Track Meet and Oratorical Contest to Be Held by High Schools in Columbia, April 27, 28.

Rock Hill, Feb. 22.—The annual track meet and oratorical contest of the Inter-High School Athletic and Oratorical Association of South Carolina will be held in Columbia Thursday, April 27, and Friday April 28, according to an announcement made by R. C. Burts, president of the association.

As usual these contests will be held at the University of South Carolina, the preliminary oratorical contests to be held Thursday afternoon and the final contest Thursday evening. The preliminary contests in the track work will be held Friday morning and the finals Friday afternoon. The University will again entertain the contestants.

Last year nearly forty schools took part in the meet. It is expected that at least fifty schools will have representatives this year. It is the wish of the association to have all the high schools of the State that possibly can do so to send representatives.

The constitution has been changed so as to allow the orators until ten days before to report to the secretary. Heretofore it has been 30 days.

All schools desiring to enter should communicate with M. E. Brockman, Greenville. For a bulletin giving the constitution, address the University of South Carolina.

There are two handsome silver trophy cups to be awarded: the Sylvan athletic cup to be awarded to the school scoring the highest number of points in the athletic contests, and the Weisspepe oratorical cup to the school that wins the oratorical contest. Last year the Sylvan cup was won by Pickens and the oratorical cup by Greenville.

REGISTRATION OF LAND TITLES.

Columbia, Feb. 21.—The registration of land titles, as provided in the bill by Messrs. Carey, H. H. Harris and L. M. Rogers, recently enacted, is voluntary on the part of the petitioner. Once secured, however, the title bearing the seal of the State can not be questioned or if questioned no additional expense is incurred by the holder who is protected under an assurance fund.

To register a title under this "Torrens system," a holder of land must petition the county court of common pleas, which is given competent jurisdiction in the matter. The petition must be accompanied by a list of all persons possibly interested in the land for which a title is desired, including the names of the adjoining owners. This petition is then referred to three or more licensed attorneys, who have been appointed by the clerk of court as examiners of titles. If the title appears to be good, summons are issued through the sheriff on all parties named in the petition, thereby making them defendants. Advertisement in a newspaper is also required. If any of the defendants file an answer then a hearing is held by the examiner of titles, who must render a decision within 30 days. If any defendant files a disclaimer it relinquishes him and all persons thereafter claiming under him. Right of appeal is granted.

Upon a title being declared valid, the register of mesne conveyances files the original certificate in the county book for such land registration and issues a duplicate to the petitioner. The owner of the land then pays one-tenth of one per cent. of the assessed value of the land for taxation for an assurance fund, out of which the owner may secure compensation in case of grievances arising.

"Every decree rendered shall bind the land and bar all persons claiming title thereto or interest therein," the bill provides. "Shall quiet the title thereto and shall be forever binding and conclusive upon and against all persons, including the State of South Carolina, whether mentioned by name in the order of publication or included under the general description, to whom it may concern." It shall not be an exception to such conclusiveness that the person is an infant, lunatic or is under any disability. The act becomes effective May 1, 1916.

This measure, providing for the "Torrens system" of land registration, was passed by the lower house at the 1915 session and by the senate this year; it was advocated and its passage urged by Gov. Manning in his annual message to the general assembly.

The "Torrens system" was first introduced in Southern Australia in 1858; its benefits and prospects were noticed by other countries, which have since adopted it. In the Canadian provinces the system is practically compulsory; similar systems are in operation in England, Wales and Germany.

In the United States Illinois adopted the system in 1895, and has since been followed by California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Colorado, Washington, New York, Philippine Islands and Hawaii, largely under the local option feature.

POOR OUTLOOK FOR LIME.

Survey Made by Clemson Geologist Reveals Few Profitable Lime Deposits.

Clemson College, Feb. 21.—The outlook for the commercial development of lime and marl deposits in South Carolina is not good, according to a survey of the deposits in this State made by Dr. F. H. H. Calhoun, professor of geology and mineralogy at Clemson College. This investigation was undertaken by the college in response to a demand for information on the subject.

The results of the survey are published in Bulletin 183 of the South Carolina Experiment Station, "Limestone and Marl Deposits of South Carolina," and may be had by anyone interested upon application to the Experiment Station at Clemson College.

Dr. Calhoun investigated a large number of limestone deposits in the Piedmont region and marl deposits in the Coastal Plain region, and found very few deposits of either kind that appeared likely to prove profitable if developed commercially. The unfavorable factors are distance from a railroad, low quality, and great thickness of "overburden" to be removed. His recommendation are as follows:

"First, before the State or any company undertakes to quarry limestone or marl at any of the localities suggested, a careful and detailed examination should be made. The extent and thickness of the deposit should be determined by sinking pits or obtaining diamond drill cores. A careful analysis should be made of samples obtained at different points."

"Second, a careful inquiry should be made into the cost of installing the necessary machinery, and of all necessary overhead expenses. The marl or limestone in sight may not justify the expenditure of any large amount of money for its extraction and preparation for market."

THE TWO-QUART MEASURE.

Columbia, Feb. 23.—The bill limiting the importation of intoxicants for personal use to two quarts of whiskey or five dozen bottles of beer per month will become law twenty days after it is signed by Gov. Manning. The bill has not yet received the signature of the governor, and it is understood that he will take it up for consideration on his return from New York the latter part of this week. Therefore, it will be at least around March 25 before this law becomes effective and in the meantime every person can order them a gallon per month.

Col. O. K. LaRoque, governor's private secretary; Mayor L. A. Griffith, Jerome Jones, of Atlanta, president of the Southern Labor Congress, were the principal speakers before the City Federation of Trade, at the Richland County Court House tonight. There was a good attendance of laboring people and others, and the speeches were listened to with marked interest, and were thoroughly enjoyed.

The State Convention of the R. F. D. Association will be held in Columbia July 4 and 5. The Convention will bring over 300 delegates to the city. The decision to hold a convention in Columbia was announced at a meeting of the executive committee, which is composed of O. F. Nunnemaker, of Irmo; B. Y. Young, of Prosperity, and T. E. Wicker of Newberry.

METHODIST ORGANIZE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Mayesville, Feb. 22.—The congregation of the Methodist church decided sometime ago that the church should have a Sunday school, and accordingly a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing. Much of the work of organizing and encouraging the undertaking was done by the pastor, the Rev. J. P. Inabinet, and Mr. A. C. Moore of Bethel church, Oswego. Mr. Moore was elected superintendent of the new school with Mr. S. C. Foxworth as assistant. The congregation here is quite small and outside assistance was gladly accepted. Mr. Moore very generously offered his services in the work and he is a Sunday school worker of experience, so that under his direction, the school should flourish and make an impression in its sphere of work. Although there are so few scholars belonging to the congregation proper, yet the school is well attended and the outlook is bright for a great work to be done along these lines. The members of the church are very grateful to Superintendent Moore and his helpers for their unselfish zeal in helping in this great cause. Sunday school will be held every Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock and the public is cordially invited at all times.

Since the beginning of the year, there has been some change in preaching services at the Methodist church, the pastor giving this church three sermons a month now instead of two. There is preaching now on the first Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock and on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons at 4 o'clock.